

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

TEST YOUR DEFENCE -October 2014 - original - [Here](#)

By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer :West Vul :	NORTH ♠ AKJ10 ♥ J953 ♦ QJ9 ♣ 43	
WEST ♠ Q84 ♥ AQ10 ♦ 84 ♣ AK752	Deal 1	EAST ♠ 532 ♥ 8642 ♦ K8 ♣ QJ109
	SOUTH ♠ 975 ♥ K7 ♦ A107532 ♣ 86	

South	West	North	East
--	1 Club	X	3 Club*
3 Diamond	All Pass		
• Weak raise			

You lead the ♣A on which partner plays the ♣Q. How do you continue?

Partner's signal of the ♣Q promises the ♣J. You can use this information to put partner on lead should you so wish. Looking at your hearts, you do indeed wish partner on lead. You therefore continue with a low club (not the ♣K).

One look at dummy will tell partner to switch to a heart up to the weakness, which enables your side to take the first four tricks

While the contract still makes, you save an overtrick. Given the chance, declarer could finesse in spades and diamonds for ten tricks.

Dealer :South Vul :	NORTH ♠ J83 ♥ KQ93 ♦ AKJ5 ♣ J3	
WEST ♠ 10874 ♥ J6 ♦ Q842 ♣ A72	Deal 2	EAST ♠ KQ52 ♥ 10852 ♦ 106 ♣ 954
	SOUTH ♠ A9 ♥ A74 ♦ 973 ♣ KQ1086	

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 Club	Pass
2 Diamond	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

You lead the ♠4. Declarer plays low from dummy and partner plays the ♠Q, which loses to the ♠A. Declarer leads the ♠6 to the ♠J and then back to the ♠K, partner playing the ♠4 and ♠9. What is your plan?

The strong dummy and the fact that declarer seems to have ♠K-Q-x-x-x means again that you cannot beat the contract. All the same, you want to make as many tricks as you can.

You might read partner's ♠9 on the second round as suit-preference signal for spades. In any case, there seems little future in the red suits or in defending passively. If partner started with K-Q-9-x, any spade will do. However, if declarer has the bare nine left, you need to lead the ten next. Leading the ten will also make life easy for partner. So take the ♠A and lead the ♠10.